

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

REF: BRUSSELS 5733

1. APPROXIMATELY SIX MILLION MEN AND WOMEN WERE REGISTERED AS UNEMPLOYED IN THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO A REPORT JUST RELEASED BY THE EC COMMISSION'S STATISTICAL OFFICE. BOTH THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND THE UNADJUSTED FIGURES IN MARCH WERE NEAR THE SIX MILLION MARK, WITH THE ADJUSTED FIGURE BEING SLIGHTLY BELOW, AND THE NON-ADJUSTED SLIGHTLY ABOVE.

2. THE UNADJUSTED FIGURE FOR MARCH--6,039,000--WAS A DROP OF MORE THAN 200,000 FROM FEBRUARY, BUT AN INCREASE OF 500,000 OVER MARCH 1977. MARCH-TO-MARCH COMPARISONS, WITH BREAKOUTS BY SEX:

REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT IN E.C.

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(000'S OMITTED)

MAR. 78 MAR. 77 CHANGE

MALE	3,577&	3,329	PLUS 8.0&&
FEMALE	2,462&	2,213	PLUS 12.2&&

TOTAL 6,039& 5,542 PLUS 9.7&&

&PRELIMINARY FIGURE

&&ESTIMATED BY EC COMMISSION.

THE MARCH 1978 FIGURES ARE TENTATIVE BECAUSE FIGURES FROM ITALY ARE STILL PRELIMINARY.

3. THE COMMUNITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MARCH IS ESTIMATED AT 5.7 PER CENT, DOWN FROM FEBRUARY'S 5.9 PER CENT, BUT UP FROM THE 5.3 PER CENT RATE OF MARCH 1977. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTRY (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED):

	MAR. 78	MAR. 77
BELGIUM	8.0 PER CENT	7.1 PER CENT
DENMARK	7.5	5.9
FRANCE	5.0	4.7
GERMANY	4.3	4.2
HOLLAND	4.3	4.3
IRELAND	9.7	10.1
ITALY	8.0&	6.6
LUXEMBOURG	0.9	0.5
UNITED KINGDOM	5.7	5.4
EC-9 AVERAGE	5.7&	5.3

&PRELIMINARY FIGURES

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4. THE EC-WIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR WOMEN IN MARCH 1978 IS ESTIMATED AT 6.5 PER CENT, COMPARED TO 5.3 PER CENT FOR MEN. THE FEMALE RATE IS HIGHER THAN THAT OF MALES IN EVERY COUNTRY EXCEPT IRELAND (WHICH RECORDS 10.7 PER CENT UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MEN, AND ONLY 7 PER CENT FOR WOMEN) AND THE UK (WHICH RECORDS 6.7 PER CENT UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MEN AND 4.1 PER CENT FOR WOMEN). THE GAP BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IS PARTICULARLY LARGE IN BELGIUM, WHERE 13.4 PER CENT OF WOMEN WORKERS ARE COUNTED AS UNEMPLOYED, COMPARED TO 5 PER CENT FOR MEN. HINTON

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